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CALLS FOR IMPROVED PLANNING
IN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY

Workers throughout the country are constantly applying socialist work methods, developing competition in their work, and attaining considerable success in fulfilling their production plans.

Satisfactory production results were attained by enterprises of the "Elprom" (Electrical Industry) Industrial Combine in fulfilling the first-quarter plan. On the whole, this plan was fulfilled by 106.4 percent, which represents 22.41 percent of total annual planned production. According to branches, the plan for machine building was fulfilled by 100.29 percent and for metalworking by 111.16 percent.

In a large number of enterprises of the combine the manufacture of new articles has been introduced. These include Soviet-type electric motors, single-phase motors with centrifugal clutch, oscillating wall fans, enameled wire, bulbs with "Goliat" bases, textolite, electric hotplates with switches, radios, single-phase electric meters, electric irons of streamlined design, etc. By increasing the production of these items, imports will be considerably reduced.

Most of the combine's enterprises managed to fulfill and exceed their first-quarter production quotas. These are: the "Kl. Voroshilov" Plant, the "V. Kolarov" Plant, the "Bulgarski Bergman" (Bulgarian Miner) Factory, the "Rayko Damyanov" Factory, the "Elremont" (Electrical Repair) Enterprise at Sofia, the "El-yanov" Factory, the "Elremont" (Electrical Repair) Enterprise at Stara Zagora, etc. The following enterprises, however, did not fulfill their production quotas: the Electric Lamp Plant, the "N. Kirov" Factory, the "Elremont" Enterprise at Gabrovo, and the "Elremont" Enterprise at Stalin.

The quality of production has not yet reached the necessary level. There have been complaints about the poor quality of articles produced, such as bulbs, electric motors, fuses, and sockets. The Electric Lamp Plant has in stock bulbs costing about 21 million leva which cannot be sold because of their poor quality. At other places there are defective products which can be repaired, such as 136 electric motors and 40 percent of the roller clutches.

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One of the principal reasons for this unsatisfactory state of affairs is the laxity permitted in the supply program for technical materials. A number of basic and specific materials with which the enterprises should have been supplied during the quarter were not delivered. Deliveries from the import offices of the "Metalimport" (Metals Import) Enterprise and the "Khimimport" (Chemicals Import) Enterprise have been particularly deficient. These offices have not fulfilled their main contracts, and consequently have disrupted the even flow of materials. The Ministry of Foreign Trade has not imported the necessary quantities of copper, which is the main raw material used by these enterprises. The enterprises themselves are responsible for the laxity that has occurred in supplying technical materials because they have not drawn plans competently for materials needed in the future. Such a case occurred at the "V. Kolarov" Plant, where materials have been ordered on the basis of arbitrary whims, etc. Some enterprises with surplus materials needed by other enterprises have not complied with the combine's orders to turn them over to the enterprises needing them. Such has been the case with the "V. Kolarov" Plant, the "Rayko Damyanov" Factory, and others. Fundamental omissions on the part of the enterprises have been permitted to occur also in accounting for materials. For instance, around 1 March 1951, the heavy current plant accounted for a stock of 124 tons of tin plate which is not included in its own plan but in the plans of the "Rozitsa" Dam and the "Kitka" Hydroelectric Power Plant. Misdirecting this stock of tin plate confuses the plan for the second quarter because the State Planning Commission now refuses to deliver tin plate to the latter enterprises. The same plant accounts for a stock of 105 tons of iron which it actually does not possess; it accounts for a stock of 422 tons of section iron, but the personnel of the plant verbally confirm that the plant does not actually have such a stock. In its projected plan, the "Bulgarski Bergman" Factory does not show that it requires coke, but nevertheless includes it in the list of unspecified materials. The cable plant does not include in its projected plan the ferrous and nonferrous metals it needs for the manufacture of machines, but requisitions this material by separate orders almost always when the plan is already in the hands of the State Planning Commission or the Council of Ministers. A large number of similar instances could be cited.

Another fundamental weakness, which has been permitted to occur during the quarter and is responsible for freezing the capital of the enterprises, is the finished products of the previous year which are yet to be disposed of. For instance, in the Electric Lamp Plant, by the end of March 1951 finished products valued at 10 million leva were in stock. Around the same date the enterprise in Stalin had in stock finished products amounting to 9,740,000 leva, including electric hotplates, teapots, fuses, etc. It is not very difficult to sell these items, but the enterprise has taken no steps to dispose of them. In the "N. Kirov" Factory there is a stock of unsold products valued at 29 million leva; in the "V. Kolarov" Plant, by 12 April 1951, there were products valued at 74 million leva, and in the "Kl. Voroshilov" Plant, 77 million leva. At the "Bulgarski Bergman" Factory there is a stock of 2 million meters of pipe and other materials which cannot be disposed of because of the saturated market.

On the whole, in all enterprises of the combine there are frozen stocks of finished products amounting to about 547 million leva. Retention of these stocks is unjustifiable and should not be permitted. This freezing of funds occurs mainly because of the lax practices within the enterprises themselves, which do not strive hard enough to dispose of their products, do not improve the quality of their production, and have not fulfilled their contractual obligations in due time. Such is the case with the enterprises at Ruse, Troyan, Stalin, Sliven, etc. The "Plasment" (Sales) Services at the enterprises and plants are still badly organized. Many of the enterprises, like those at Stalin, the "V. Kolarov" Plant, and others, submit to the combine incorrect data on finished products. The combine itself is responsible for certain defects: it has not established complete coordination between production planning and market demand; it has not installed laboratories and test stations at the enterprises (necessary

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measures if the quality of production is to be improved); and it has not required that the enterprises fulfill their contractual obligations. Responsibility for disposing of the finished product is borne by the "Durzhavno Snabdyavane" (State Supply) Enterprise, which has not yet fulfilled its contractual obligations.

Financial difficulties arise from stockpiling finished products in enterprise warehouses. It must be made quite clear to all managers that, parallel with the production plans, there are financial plans, the fulfillment of which is of equal importance. Some enterprises, such as the "Kl. Voroshilov," "V. Kolarov," and Electric Lamp plants, and others, halt the turnover of funds for a longer time than that prescribed.

During the last quarter, large-scale weaknesses have been permitted in construction programs of the enterprises. The "Elprom" Combine has not discharged its tasks in full; it has not planned and specified construction materials correctly and in due time. Neither has it taken timely measures to prepare complete and exact specifications of materials. Some responsibility must be borne also by those enterprises which were allocated construction credits, for they have been late in requisitioning their needs. Thus, for instance, the heavy current plant submitted its requisition as late as 14 February, when the deadline was 26 January. Similar delays have been observed on the part of the dielectric porcelain plant and others.

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